

of Public Safety and Correctional Services, the Superintendent designates the Deputy Superintendent (Code 1957, Art. 88B, secs. 14 and 16).

The Investigation Division of the State Police has the responsibility to conduct requested criminal investigations that occur anywhere within the State of Maryland. This responsibility includes, but is not limited to, detection and arrest of criminal offenders, recovery of lost and stolen property, handling extradition proceedings, and performing other investigations as directed by the Superintendent of the State Police.

The Crime Laboratory Division analyzes evidence submitted by all Maryland law enforcement agencies pursuing the investigation or prosecution of a criminal or motor vehicle offense. Division personnel analyze controlled dangerous substances, blood alcohol, arson propellants, questioned documents, and other physical evidence. The Division maintains mobile evidence collection units in each troop area.

In 1976 the State Legislature created the State Criminal Justice Information System. The Criminal Records Central Repository is responsible for the collection, storage, and dissemination of criminal history record information and is under the operational control of the State Police. The System compiles analyses and publishes statistics on criminal activity received from all law enforcement jurisdictions in the State. Analysis of figures indicating trends and other pertinent statistical data is done by this system and shown in quarterly reports and an annual report entitled *Crime in Maryland* (Code 1957, Art. 27, secs. 742-755).

The Licensing Division is charged with licensing private detectives and security guards (Code 1957, Art. 56, secs. 75-92) and Maryland railroad police (Ch. 469, Acts of 1979), as well as with registration of firearms and investigation, with the assistance of other police agencies, of those persons desiring to purchase a handgun from a registered firearms dealer (Code 1957, Art. 27, secs. 441-448).

The Licensing Division is responsible for investigating all applicants desiring to wear, carry, or transport a handgun. Investigations are conducted by members of the State Police and other police agencies. The Superintendent, after reviewing the report of investigation, has authority to approve or disapprove the application and either issue, or refuse to issue, an appropriate permit (Code 1957, Art. 27, sec. 36). The Division also operates a voluntary firearms registration service for those acquiring or owning firearms that are not controlled by other statutes. The Division investigates and processes those persons desiring to

secure a special police commission from the Governor (Code 1957, Art. 41, secs. 60-70).

Legislation in 1965 gave the State Police responsibility for licensing qualified garages and other facilities to make inspections and corrections of equipment and mechanisms and to certify that used motor vehicles, for which titles are sought, meet the equipment standards promulgated by the Motor Vehicle Administration (Code Transportation Article, secs. 13-102, 103).

Reports of motor vehicle accidents investigated by any law enforcement officer in the State must be forwarded to the State Police. The Central Accident Records Division analyzes and prepares statistical tables and charts based on these reports.

The Truck Enforcement Division of the State Police, under direct appropriation from the Transportation Trust Fund, enforces the provisions of the Motor Vehicle Code pertaining to size, weight, and load of vehicles (Code Transportation Article, secs. 24-101, 24-112); and laws governing motor fuel tax (Code 1957, Art. 56, secs. 135-157) and fraud resulting from the sale of motor fuels and lubricants (Code 1957, Art. 27, secs. 231-233).

By Chapter 452, Acts of 1968, the Superintendent of the State Police administers the State Aid for Police Protection Fund (Code 1957, Art. 15A, secs. 35-39).

The Aviation Division provides helicopter service throughout Maryland twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, to effect the evacuation of seriously injured highway and other victims requiring immediate transport to medical assistance. Other missions include search and rescue, criminal investigation support, traffic control, and support in disasters and civil disturbances.

The Special Tactical Assault Team Element (STATE) and the Hostage Recovery Team (HRT) are comprised of personnel skilled in special tactics to respond to barricade and hostage situations, sniper incidents, rescue operations, and other extraordinary occurrences.

The State Police maintains trained K-9 teams throughout the State. The primary purpose of the trooper/K-9 teams is crime prevention and detection. All teams are trained in basic police procedures, and a number have received special training in the detection of explosive substances, narcotics, and firearms. Bloodhounds are also used to search for lost and wanted persons.

The Crime Prevention Unit conducts direct crime prevention surveys of commercial and residential properties. Further, they provide training